ing advertisement space by the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether advertisement space in various Kiosks has been given by the NDMC to Indian Tobacco Company, (ITC) without following the tendering procedure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) There are no specific guidelines in this regard. However, advertisements are to be permitted as per provisions of the NDMC Act, 1994 and the bye-laws made thereunder.

(c) and (d) According to the New Delhi Municipal Council, the object of cladding the Kiosks/Paan Tharas was to give a facelift to the existing structure, which would also improve the environment. The matter regarding cladding of Kiosks by the ITC was discussed in a meeting held in April 1994 and it was decided to entrust the work in respect of a few Kiosks/Paan Tharas initially on Jantar Mantar Road and Parliament Street. The ITC had offered to do the work free of cost and was also willing to pay the advertisement tax to the NDMC. After reviewing the cladding work done by the ITC on these selected Kiosks by a committee of officers, it was decided to permit the ITC to complete the cladding work on all the Kiosks/Paan Tharas located within Lutyen's Bungalow Zone of the NDMC, without putting any smoking advertisement on them. According to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, there appears to be no reason to doubt the bona fides of the decision in question.

Rationalisation of Irrigation Rates

1728. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the difficult financial condition of some States with regard to the cost of maintenance of irrigation projects, Government propose to rationalise irrigation rates in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide adequate special assistance for these States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) Irrigation being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to act on rationalising the irrigation water rates. No special assistance by the Central Government to any State to meet the cost of maintenance of irrigation projects is provided. However, the Planning Commission set up a Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water in October, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan, Former Member, Planning Commission to examine various aspects of water pricing in the country. The Committee in its report submitted in September, 1992 has made important suggestions to rationalise the irrigation water rates and thereby reduce the gap between revenue realised through irrigation and related charges and the cost of operation and maintenance of irrigation projects. The recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee were further studied by the Group of Officers set up by the Planning Commission in October, 1992. The Group in its report of December, 1994, recommended, inter-alia, that the irrigation water rates should cover the full annual operation and maintenance cost in phases in next 5 years period. The recommendations of the Group alongwith the report of the Vaidyanathan Committee have been sent by the Planning Commission to all the States for consideration and further action.

कांडला बंदरगाह पर अपर्याप्त लंगरगाह (बर्थ)

1729. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कांडला बंदरगाह पर पर्याप्त लंगरगाहों (बर्थों) के अभाव में अथवा अन्य